

**CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1953

**CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**together with the Report of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**

1953

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alderman A. Hampton, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Councillor E. Jones

Mr. Councillor A. Hampton, Jun.

Mr. Councillor J. James

Mr. Councillor D. M. Whitehouse

Mr. Councillor F. Turner

Mr. Councillor J. Dean

Mr. Councillor J. Holston

Councillor Mrs. M. Hotchkiss

Councillor Mrs. I. M. Mincher

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

R. Webster, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Sanitary Department

Acting Senior Sanitary and Shops Inspector: J. Ball, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: R. Heath, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary and Shops Inspector: N. Aston.

Clerical Staff: Mrs. P. Webb, Miss G. Lockley.

STAFF OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY WORKING IN THE CANNOCK DISTRICT

Health Visitors

Mrs. D. Robinson, C.M.B., S.R.N.

Mrs. S. Leach, S.R.N.

Mrs. H. M. Thomson, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N., H.V.

Mrs. H. M. Box, S.R.N.

Mrs. M. E. Vaughan, S.R.N. (Appointed February 1953)

Miss A. M. M. Girdlestone, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

(Appointed January, 1953).

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Urban District during the year 1953. It will be seen that on the whole, this has been satisfactory.

The Birth Rate rose from 16.97 in 1952 to 17.77 in 1953, and stood well above the National average of 15.85. The Infantile Mortality Rate remained fairly constant at 43.66. This figure is still too high by modern standards. The causes are set out on page 10 of the Report, where they will be seen to be diverse in type. There were no Maternal Deaths.

In contrast to the relatively unfavourable Infantile Mortality Rate, the General Death Rate was 10.74 as compared with 11.67 for the district in the previous year and the National average of 11.4.

The most notable event in the field of Infectious Disease was the occurrence of a sharp outbreak of Measles, which produced a total of 753 cases. The first few appeared in January. The numbers affected mounted rapidly week by week, to reach a peak of 96 cases in one week, the week ended 11th April. Thereafter, the notifications fell steeply to zero by the week ended 3rd May.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the spring and autumn, and particularly so in the latter period. A total of 181 cases were recorded as against 10 in the previous year.

A scheme for the provision of immunisation against whooping cough was introduced by the County Council in September, 1953, and we are hopeful that this measure will lead to a sharp reduction in this distressing affliction of little children.

Sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever continued to occur, and whilst there was no epidemic the aggregate of these scattered cases was 66.

Eight cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, but one was subsequently proved not to be poliomyelitis. All seven confirmed cases were paralytic. Investigation showed that there was no connection in any of these cases with tonsil operations or with immunisation.

Four notifications of Diphtheria were received, but on further investigation they were all proved to be not diphtheria. The district was thus completely free from Diphtheria in 1953.

The immunisation state of the children in the District was good (77.75%), and continuous work in this field throughout the year has ensured that this level of immunity has been maintained.

There were twelve deaths from Tuberculosis during the year, one more than in the previous year. Taking a longer view, however, we see that tuberculosis deaths have fallen since 1947 by some 40%, which is in conformity with the experience of the country as a whole. The number of new cases found increased from 39 to 44.

Regular sampling of water supplied within the Urban District has been carried out, with uniformly satisfactory reports. Inspection and laboratory control of the standards of hygiene of canteens and catering establishments has been carried on in a routine manner, and the results of these activities have been to raise standards, and to reveal a good general standard of hygiene throughout.

Thirteen houses were demolished all in clearance areas, and one house was demolished voluntarily by the owner.

I am grateful for the continued help and encouragement of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and for the co-operation and assistance of the staff of the Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. WESTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Area of the district (excluding area covered by water)	acres 8,155
Total Population at all ages at 1951 Census	40,927
Registrar-General's estimate of population to middle of the year	41,230
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1954	£183,988
Product of Penny Rate	£720
Nett Births	733
Birth Rate (live and still-births) per 1,000 of estimated population	17.77
Net Deaths allocated to the district:—	
Under one year of age	31
At all ages	443
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	43.66
Death Rates (at all ages)	10.74
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of year	10,557

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Unemployment figures for the year were as follows:—

DATE	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	18 AND OVER	UNDER 18	18 AND OVER	UNDER 18	
16-3-53	134	3	124	13	274
15-6-53	100	1	76	7	184
14-9-53	124	18	74	16	232
7-12-53	122	1	68	2	193

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M	F
Live Births, legitimate	689	348	341
Live Births, illegitimate	21	11	10
Still Births, legitimate	22	11	11
Still Births, illegitimate	1	1	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (live and still births)	17.77
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (live births)	17.12
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (live births)	15.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (still births)	0.35
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (still births)	0.55
Area Comparability Factor	1.03

	Total	M	F
Total Deaths	443	249	194
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... ..	...	...	10.74
Death Rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	...	11.4
Area Comparability Factor ... ..	...	...	1.15

Maternal Mortality

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	
		Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	—	0.00	0.10
Others	—	0.00	0.66
	—	—	—
Total	—	0.00	0.76

Infant Mortality

	Actual Deaths	Cannock Rate	Eng. & Wales Rate
Deaths under one year of age:—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	31	43.66	26.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	31	43.66	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—	—	—

Deaths at all Ages

						Rate per 1,000 of estimated population		
						Deaths	Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	77	1.86	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2	0.04	0.01
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	0.00	0.00
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	4	0.09	0.15
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	4	5.6	1.1

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services by the Local Health Authority within the Cannock Urban District

Welfare Centre

The Clinic, Church Street, Cannock.
 The Clinic, Arthur Street, Chadsmoor.
 The Clinic, Cannock Road, Hednesford.
 St. John's Institute, Heath Hayes.
 Methodist Schoolroom, Rugeley Road, Hazel Slade.
 Community Centre, John Street, Wimblebury.

Ante-Natal Clinics

The Clinic, Church, Street, Cannock.
 The Clinic, Arthur Street, Chadsmoor.
 The Clinic, Cannock Road, Hednesford.
 Community Centre, John Street, Wimblebury.

Vaccination

No. of children vaccinated up to including age 15 years 80

Puerperal Pyrexia

Nine cases were notified.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths.

Infant Mortality

The main causes of death of children under one year of age were as follows:—

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Broncho pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Erythroblastosis Foetalis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miliary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hydrocephalus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bilateral polycystic kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pyloric Stenosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Toxoplasmosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total									31

The Birth Rates, Infant Mortality Rates (I.M.R.) and Maternal Mortality Rates (M.M.R.) for the past ten years were as follows:—

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Birth Rates	21.38	20.55	21.72	23.69	22.49	19.49	18.69	18.81	16.93	17.77
I.M. Rates	54.23	37.91	61.86	50.05	39.8	36.3	36.8	35.93	43.41	43.66
M.M. Rates	6.14	2.61	2.4	0.00	2.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Illegitimate Children

In conjunction with other authorities, arrangements have been made with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, who continue to deal with illegitimate children and their mothers .

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Two cases were notified.

SECTION C — Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria

Four cases were notified, compared with two in the previous year. All proved not to be Diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever

66 cases were notified, compared with 75 in the previous year. 26 cases were removed to hospital, and there were no fatal cases.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis

One case was notified. There was no fatal case.

Poliomyelitis

7 cases were notified. There was no fatal case.

Enteric Fever

No cases of enteric fever were notified.

Pneumonia

Six cases of primary pneumonia were notified. There were 10 deaths from all types of pneumonia.

Measles and Whooping Cough

753 cases of measles were notified, with no fatal cases. There were 181 cases of whooping cough, with two fatal cases.

Cancer

There were 77 deaths from cancer, the same as for last year.

Dysentery

Two cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases Notified				Total	Deaths				Total
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1
1—5	3	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
5—15	1	2	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
15—25	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	7	6	...	...	13	...	1	...	...	1
35—45	4	4	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	3	3	...	1	7	2	2	...	...	4
55—65	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1
65 & up	4	1	...	...	5	3	2	...	...	5
Total	24	20	2	2	48	6	5	...	1	12

There were 11 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, three more than in the previous year, and one from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The incidence of the pulmonary and non-pulmonary locations of the disease is set out below:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1952	25	14	1	3
1953	24	20	2	2

The incidence of pulmonary and non-pulmonary deaths are set out below for the past six years:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1947	8	8	2	3	21
1948	8	2	1	2	13
1949	10	4	1	2	17
1950	9	8	—	—	17
1951	6	6	3	—	15
1952	6	2	—	3	11

Notices of admission to Institutions were received as follows:—

The Limes, Himley	...	...	...	...	5
Prestwood Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	3
Groundslow Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	12

Causes of Death during 1953

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	5
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	1	1
6. Meningococcal Infection	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic diseases ...	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	8	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus	7	2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	6
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	26	20
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	—
16. Diabetes	—	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	31	37
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	29	12
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	2
20. Other Heart Disease	43	37
21. Other Circulatory Disease	18	9
22. Influenza	2	2
23. Pneumonia	5	5
24. Bronchitis	25	11
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory	4	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	3	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	17	21
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	1
34. All other Accidents	5	2
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
Totals ...	249	194

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTING SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith, a report on the sanitary administration of the Urban District for the period 1st Janary to 31st December, 1953. Details relating to Public Cleansing and Conveniences have been supplied by Mr. C. F. Poole, Cleansing Superintendent.

The continued shortage of staff in my department and the unsatisfactory office accommodation provided have, as you are aware, been a great problem throughout the year. It is pleasing to know that these difficulties may soon be solved.

Complaints

Complaints received in 1953 totalled 657 — far outnumbering those of any previous year. Some related to matters which we could not deal with, but help and advice was always offered. Official procedure is sometimes bi-passed — personal contact with owners or persons concerned is always appreciated and nuisances often quickly abated. Endeavour is made to deal with incidental complaints as they arise but the shortage of staff inevitably caused delay at times.

Nuisances and Other Matters Dealt With

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals ...	...	...	90
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter ...	...	...	2
Defective water closets and drains ...	...	...	165
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance ...	...	...	3
Dirty yards ...	...	...	2
Dirty Dwellinghouses ...	...	...	7
Dirty Bedding ...	...	...	3
Dwellinghouses needing repair ...	...	...	295
Dwellinghouses overcrowded ...	...	...	16

Improvements Carried Out

- 2 Water closets substituted for 2 pail closets.
- 2 New water closet roofs.
- 1 New water closet door.
- 1 Water closet door repaired.
- 34 New water closet pans.
- 21 New water closet seats.
- 3 New water closet flushing cisterns.
- 51 Water closet flushing cisterns repaired.
- 4 Choked water closets opened.
- 78 Choked drains opened.
- 37 Yards of new drains on 7 premises.
- 9 Drains repaired.

- 943 New dustbins substituted for worn out dustbins.
- 1 New gully and grid provided.
- 1 Water closet pan cleansed.
- 1 Water closet compartment redecorated.
- 4 New drain inspection chambers constructed.
- 7 New drain inspection chamber covers provided.
- 3 Drain ventilating shafts repaired.
- 7 New sanitary pails provided.
- 2 Drains trapped.

Notices Served

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	399
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124

Results of Notices Served

Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	373
Notices not complied with	...	...	38

Sanitary Accommodation

With the exception of those parts of the area where no sewers are available, the sanitary accommodation is on the water carriage system. In these parts, water closets drained to cesspools, chemical closets or sanitary pails are provided. The Council's Cleansing Department regularly empty them. Approximately 280 premises are not served by a public sewer but it is anticipated this figure will, in the not too distant future, be reduced following an extension of the sewer to a new housing site. No privies or waste water closets exist in the district.

Ashpits, throughout the urban area, have been abolished and dust bins provided. These are supplied and maintained by the Council under a Scheme in accordance with Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936. An annual charge of 4/- per annum is made for each dust bin. The Scheme was adopted in 1940 and has since proved very popular. During 1953, 943 bins were supplied. Since the commencement of this Scheme a total of 8,477 bins have been provided.

Cannock being a mining area, the amount of household refuse is above normal. The average life of a good dustbin has been estimated to be five or six years, but during 1953 the Council felt the result of being obliged to accept poor quality bins some years ago. It was, during this period, impossible to obtain galvanised dustbins and those which were obtained are rapidly deteriorating.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations

Dairies and Milk Shops	48
Purveyors of Milk from other districts selling milk in this area ...	11
Bakehouses	16
Slaughterhouses	22
Butchers Shops	42
Meat Stalls	7
Fried Fish Shops	43
Tents, Vans and Sheds	42
Mortuaries	2
Knacker's Yard	1
Factories	130

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	295
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	1227
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	20
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	75
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	16
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	279

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	136
---	-----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By local authority in default of Owners	0

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:—
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 128
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By Owners ... 101
 - (b) By local authority in default of Owner ... 0
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 0
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 1
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... 0

Unfit Houses

Number demolished:—

Individual Unfits	...	...	...	...	0
Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	13
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	1

Situation of Houses Demolished

St. Chad's Ward:—

1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13, Burgoyne Street, High-town	...	...	...	...	...	Clearance Order
38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48, Cecil Street, Chadsmoor	...	...	...	...	...	Clearance Order

St. Aidan's Ward:—

189, Pye Green Road, Cannock	Voluntary
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----------

Situation of Building Closed

St. Peter's Ward:—

Structure adjoining Broom Cottage, Cannock Wood.

Clearance Areas Represented

During the year one clearance area was represented and dealt with by the making of the following order:—

St. Chad's Ward:—

Cannock (Holly Street, Chadsmoor) Clearance Order No. 77 1953.

Property	Area (sq. yds.)	No. of Houses	No. of Persons
1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 Holly Street Chadsmoor	1,275	6	29

Situation of Houses Represented for Demolition

Nil

Houses Erected

- 10 Bungalows were built by private enterprise.
- 24 Houses were built by private enterprise.
- 20 Houses were built by the local authority.
- 122 Permanent bungalows were erected by the local authority.

Houses Improved

Outer Walls rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Houses respouted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Houses repointed, roughcast or cemented	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
New ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
New quarry and concrete floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Quarry, brick and concrete floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New wood floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wood floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
New firegrates fitted or firegrates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
New windows and windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
New sashcords, catches, fasteners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
New doors fitted and doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Stair treads renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Foodstores ventilated and lighted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New sinks and sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
New coppers and coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Burst pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Yards paved and paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Vertical damp proof courses provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sculleries repaired and rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts, 1920 to 1939

Section 2 (2) of Act of 1920

Three applications were received from tenants under the above-mentioned Acts, and each case was considered in a report submitted. One certificate was granted.

Overcrowding

Number of cases on books at end of 1953	...	...	...	...	37
Number of cases abated:—					
From Council houses	...	...	...	...	0
From private houses	...	...	...	...	11
Number of new cases reported to Medical Officer of Health during 1953	...	...	...	...	16

Moveable Dwellings

On four occasions it was necessary to take informal action against nomadic type of caravan dwellers who had stationed their vans in this district. The problem when visiting these people is one of health, education and social welfare. With no sites allocated to them and no water supply or sanitary accommodation available, there is a danger to public health. In addition, the children appear to get little chance to attend school.

To alleviate the sporadic siting of caravans within this district, the Council have now completed the provision of a site at Pye Green. It is available for twelve caravans and provides water supply, means of drainage and sanitary accommodation. Each van has (1) a separate water closet and (2) a separate drain inlet. A wash-house situated adjacent to each pair of vans contains a sink with tap over. Applications for this site far outnumber the available standings and the question of a further site is under consideration.

Other moveable dwellings were dealt with under the powers contained in the Public Health Act, 1936.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

(a) Milk.

Practically all the milk sold in this area is either heat treated or "designated." A large dairy is situated within the district which pasteurises over 1,000 gallons of milk daily. There are 7 premises registered as dairies (not being dairy farms) and 56 registered distributors of milk. Frequent inspections are made of the premises and samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination.

Details of the samples taken during 1953 are:—

From vans in course of delivery	58
From dairies	41
From shops	5

Of the 104 samples taken, 13 proved unsatisfactory and reports were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Milk Section) for appropriate action.

Licences granted to sell designated milks:—

Dealers Licences:—

Tuberculin Tested	17
Pasteurised	28
Sterilised	46

Supplementary Licences:—

Tuberculin Tested	8
Pasteurised	10
Sterilised	6

(b) Slaughterhouses, Meat Shops and Meat Vans.

The meat supplies to the area, continued to be from the Ministry of Food Abattoir at Walsall.

Only a few of the 22 slaughterhouses in this district were occasionally used for the slaughter of cottagers pigs and inspections were made when slaughtering took place. In addition, the carcasses of 29 pigs were inspected following emergency slaughter on the instructions of a Veterinary Surgeon.

The meat shops, stalls, vans and making up rooms were regularly visited. 29 premises are registered for the manufacture of preserved food under the Food and Drugs Act.

(c) Food Premises.

All food premises including Cafes and Restaurants, Colliery, Works and School Canteens, School Nurseries, Hostels, Licensed Premises, Bakehouses and Ice-cream manufacturing premises and Shops were frequently visited.

Hygiene (efficiency) tests of the utensils and samples of the washing up water were taken. Altogether, 419 tests were submitted for bacteriological examination and of these only 49 proved unsatisfactory. I much appreciate the help and advice given by the Public Health Laboratory Service who undertake this work. It is partly through this practice that many improvements have been brought about.

Liaison with the Ministry of Food continued following six applications for Catering Licences. Applicants were reminded by the Ministry of the existence of regulations under the Food and Drugs Act and advised to consult the Health Department.

In compliance with a request from the Ministry of Food the department undertook the sampling of liquid egg from an Egg Packing Station in this area. 158 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and in only one instance was an adverse report received, salmonella typhi-murium being isolated.

(d) Unsound Food.

The following food, found to be unfit for human consumption, was surrendered at the time of inspection and later destroyed under the supervision of the department. Voluntary surrender notes were obtained for all the food and 868 condemnation certificates issued.

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	ozs.
Canned and bottled fruit	...	...	...		14	3	19	5
Canned vegetables	...	...	...		4	2	7	4
Tomatoes	...	...	...		6	0	7	6
Canned ham and meat	...	...	...		9	1	22	9¾
Canned milk	...	...	...		2	1	5	12
Fish	...	...	...		2	3	3	5½
Cheese	...	...	...		1	0	1	3
Canned Soup and broth	...	...	...			3	19	9
Jam	...	...	...			3	4	5
Flour	...	...	...			3	16	0
Chickens	...	...	...		2	1	24	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...		5	3	20	14
Total	...	...	...	2	12	0	11	9¼

(c) Ice-Cream.

Premises registered for:—

Manufacture and sale (hot mix method)	2
Manufacture and sale (cold mix method)	7
Sale only	155

Sampling during 1953 was intensified, a total of 109 samples being submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:—

	Manufactured in District	Manufactured outside District
Grade 1	23	50
Grade 2	13	15
Grade 3	3	1
Grade 4	3	1

Fourteen samples of "Frozen Lollies" were submitted for bacteriological examination and results showed no coliform organisms were present in 0.3 c.c. In addition, 6 samples of lollies produced in this area were submitted for chemical analysis. In only one case was slight metallic contamination found but the analyst was of the opinion that no action was necessary.

Water Supply

Water for the area is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. Only one dwelling house is not supplied by this Company—this is situated in an isolated position and is condemned as unfit for human habitation.

Samples of the main water supply are submitted periodically for chemical and bacteriological examination (14 were taken in 1953) and over a long period, results have proved it to be pure and wholesome. A sample taken from a shallow well supplying the aforementioned isolated dwelling house, was reported as "suspicious" and the occupants were advised to boil all water before using.

Shops Act, 1950

The administration of this Act is rigorously carried out. In the period under review, 318 visits were made to shops to ascertain whether the requirements were being complied with.

In connection with the part of the Act which deals with the arrangements for health and comfort of shop workers, 18 contraventions were found. These were later remedied following informal action.

Visits included those made on the early closing day and Sundays to ascertain closing hours were being observed. In these instances 27 contraventions were found. After consideration by the Council, warning letters were sent and no contraventions have since been noted.

No summary proceedings were instituted during the year.

Factories Act, 1937

Inspections have increased due to the erection of new factories in the area. These now total 130 and are of various types and sizes.

1.—Inspection of factories made for the purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	9	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies :				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities Transfer of Enforcement Order, 1938.	121	142	4	—
(b) Others	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	130	153	4	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate lighting	1	1	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—					
(a) Insufficient	5	3	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	10	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences in relation to homework)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	17	15	—	3	—

Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution

Work in connection with investigation of atmospheric pollution has continued daily. The instruments in use are the same as last year namely two Deposit Gauges, six Lead Peroxide Instruments and one combined Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide apparatus. These instruments are operated in conjunction with the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

TABLE I
Deposit Gauges — Records of Deposits

Month					Deposits in Tons per Square Mile per Month	
					Bridgtown	Littleworth
January	...	...	...	...	11.18	18.98
February	...	...	...	...	13.41	15.77
March	...	...	...	...	16.24	16.03
April	...	...	...	...	21.28	16.53
May	...	...	...	...	16.67	14.44
June	...	...	...	...	20.98	16.73
July	...	...	...	...	20.94	16.92
August	...	...	...	...	10.91	15.18
September	...	...	...	...	13.76	14.94
October	...	...	...	...	18.57	23.40
November	...	...	...	...	13.00	20.47
December	...	...	...	...	12.45	16.83
Totals	...	...	...	...	189.39	206.22
Monthly Average, 1953	...	...	...	...	15.78	17.18
Monthly Average, 1952	...	...	...	...	21.26	16.74

TABLE II

Lead Peroxide Gauges — Record of Sulphur Pollution

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected — in milligrammes per 100 square centimetres per day

Month	Bridg- town	Cannock	Pye Green	Hednes- ford	Wimble- bury	Hill
January ...	1.14	1.07	0.77	1.44	1.74	1.54
February ...	1.10	1.42	1.93	0.99	1.03	0.69
March ...	1.16	0.80	0.93	1.13	1.24	1.06
April ...	0.64	0.92	0.56	0.89	0.92	1.11
May ...	0.61	0.50	0.54	0.59	0.61	2.39
June ...	0.57	0.44	0.92	0.52	0.68	0.78
July ...	0.70	0.25	0.33	0.52	0.79	1.12
August ...	0.63	0.51	0.57	0.54	0.77	1.12
September ...	0.67	0.52	0.65	0.74	0.95	1.57
October ...	0.87	0.96	1.15	1.10	1.43	1.70
November ...	1.14	1.14	1.04	1.40	1.34	2.21
December ...	1.34	1.22	1.46	1.75	1.82	2.06
Totals ...	10.57	9.75	10.85	11.61	13.32	17.35
Monthly Average—						
1953 ...	0.88	0.81	0.90	0.97	1.11	1.44
1952 ...	1.08	0.69	0.77	0.94	1.26	1.44

TABLE III

Smoke Filter and Volumetric Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus

Monthly average concentrations of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide

Smoke			Milligrāmmes per cu. metre	Sulphur Dioxide			Parts per Million
Average	...	...	0.098	Average	...	...	0.020
Highest	...	...	0.495	Highest	...	...	0.081
Lowest	...	...	0.008	Lowest	...	...	0.002

Weather conditions and wind direction are important factors in deciding the atmospheric pollution of a district and not all the pollution recorded can be said to originate in this area.

Smoke observations were made periodically throughout the year and in three instances it was necessary to approach the occupiers of the premises concerned. They forthwith agreed to execute such works as were necessary to reduce the smoke emitted to a minimum.

Observations were also made of the spoilbanks in the area. Sporadic nuisances occurred during the year but improvements were soon brought about following informal action.

Disinfestation

Before selected applicants are removed to Council Houses, their homes are visited to ascertain whether disinfestation of the furniture, etc., is necessary. In this period 294 visits were made and in 18 cases it was deemed necessary to do this work. The disinfestation of furniture was by means of Hydrogen Cyanide gas and the bedding and soft furnishings by steam.

This work — sometimes very unpleasant — is of great value. Subsequent to disinfestations being done over several years, no case of re-infestation has been reported.

In addition to the above, minor infestations of bugs, fleas and cockroaches were dealt with by means of insecticidal fluids.

Infectious Diseases—Disinfection—Steam Disinfector

During the year, 79 cases of infectious disease were investigated and reports submitted to the Medical Officer of Health. In only 8 instances was disinfection of rooms carried out, the work being done by means of formalin gas.

The Council's steam disinfector was in use on 36 days during the year and 582 articles were disinfected or disinfested. As in previous years disinfection of bedding was carried out for adjoining authorities who have no facilities available.

Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949

A Rodent Control Service has now been in operation since before the war. One Rodent Operator is employed.

As a result of (1) notification, (2) survey and (3) visits to premises primarily for some other purpose, the following properties were inspected.

Type of Property				
Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (inc. business premises)	Total
16	1,664	6	232	1,918

Properties found to be infested with rats or mice and subsequently treated were:—

Type of Property				
Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (inc. business premises)	Total
3	153	Nil	51	207

NOTE:— All the above were classed as minor infestations..

The public sewerage system receives attention bi-annually and shows a very low degree of rat infestation. During the year 196 manholes were treated, results showing only 15 complete and 3 partial takes.

Knacker's Yard

Visits made to the one Knacker's Yard in the area have always found the premises clean and well maintained.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The only slaughtering of animals for human consumption has been in cases of emergency and a few cottagers pigs. In spite of this the majority of slaughtermen continued to renew their licences granted under the above Act. In 1953, one new licence and 71 renewals of existing licences were granted.

Streams and Watercourses

No complaints of pollution were received during this period and inspections found the streams and watercourses in a satisfactory condition.

Camp Sites

The one permanent site in the area for camping purposes is used by Scouts. This is situated at Beaudesert Park, Cannock Wood, and modern sanitation and an adequate water supply is provided. Visits have always found the site to be well maintained.

Mortuaries

Two mortuaries are provided in the area, one at Cannock and one at Hednesford. These are well equipped for post mortem examinations

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Four premises are licenced for the keeping of Pet Shops. The licences were granted subject to such conditions as would ensure the objects of the Act being secured.

Public Cleansing

The work of this department in all its aspects has proceeded satisfactorily during the year.

Particulars respecting the work are as follows:—

REFUSE COLLECTION GENERALLY.—Domestic and trade refuse collection and disposal has been maintained generally at a seven-day interval.

In May, 1953, the Council introduced a scheme with a scale of charges for the collection and disposal of Trade Refuse under the provisions of Section 73 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

This has operated satisfactorily and has tended to regularise collection from such sources. It has also resulted in income for the removal and disposal of material distinct in character from household refuse and for which formerly a free service obtained.

A fleet of modern type side loading and tipping vehicles, with sliding dustproof covers, have been used, comprising in all five vehicles, four 7 cubic yard capacity and one 10 cubic yard capacity.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.—Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, and though mechanical aids in levelling of refuse and covering up have not yet been introduced, a fair standard of tidiness has been maintained by manual labour.

The derth of good soil as covering material is, to some extent, counteracted by the use of street sweepings and builders spoil.

The improvement of levels of Council owned land to render it suitable for future playing fields or open space development has been the main tipping policy, although some tipping has been carried out on land privately owned.

Tips used during the year are as follows:—

Littleworth Clayhole.—This has been in continuous use, serving the northern part of the district. Good levels have been maintained, it has been well soiled and the tipping life of this site is estimated at 12 months.

Burgoyne Street, Land at rear of Belt Road Schools.—On this land, the site of a former gravel pit, the tipping of refuse to raise the levels of the land and render it suitable for conversion to school playing fields was completed during the year.

Burgoyne Street, Land ex-Dunning's Gravel Pit.—An area of land adjoining the above site was purchased by the Council and tipping of refuse proceeded there upon completion of the former site. The raising of levels of this land by refuse from the central and part of the northern areas of the district is intended to render the land suitable for re-development at a future date.

Walsall Road, Churchbridge.—By agreement with the National Coal Board, an area of land between the railway and canal on which is situated two disused clayholes, was made available for disposal of refuse. Prior to tipping of refuse, water from the smaller clayhole was first pumped out and subsequent water infiltration has been counteracted by pre-tipping of rubble and further pumping to enable refuse tipping to proceed clear of water.

The use of this site, in conjunction with the former, will provide a tipping life of at least five years for the southern and central areas of the district.

Private Land off Cumberledge Hill, Cannock Wood.—The use of this land for refuse from the areas in immediate proximity has continued, the levels of the land being improved for agricultural use.

The tipping life is estimated at a further nine months.

Future Tipping Sites.—The future tipping policy has been well considered and arrangements made whereby sites to be utilised upon completion of some of those now in use, will ensure availability for disposal of refuse for the whole area for a period of five years at least.

CESSPOOLS.—The 1,000 gallon capacity mechanically operated tanker vehicle has operated generally a ten to fourteen day interval service in the emptying of Cesspools in the Cannock Wood and Pye Green areas.

The contents are discharged from tanker to gravitation sewers for sewage disposal works treatment.

GULLY CLEANSING.—The 750 gallon capacity machine has been regularly engaged in the mechanical emptying of street gullies and flushing of foul sewers.

The gully contents are discharged at refuse tips and when dried out form excellent cover for tip surfaces and as sealing material to embankments.

STREET SCAVENGING.—This work has been undertaken on a rota system by a combination of the "beat" method employing street orderly trucks and 25-cwt. capacity motor truck with sliding dustproof covers. Shopping and town centres receive daily attention and the open markets are cleared of resultant refuse immediately following sales.

The indiscriminate littering of streets is still a matter of concern and has appreciably increased the work of scavenging. Never-the-less, a fair standard of tidiness has been maintained throughout the area.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES.—The public conveniences situate in various parts of the area have, since September, 1953, been under the control of the Cleansing Department as regards maintenance. Lady attendants are employed daily at Cannock and Hednesford females conveniences and all other conveniences are visited daily for cleaning by an employee of the department.

A good standard of cleanliness is maintained, but it is regretted that this work is rendered more difficult by misuse on the part of certain irresponsible persons. The defacing of walls and paintwork and the recurring damage to flush cisterns, water service pipes, taps, locks and fittings is a matter of great concern. The provision of additional convenience accommodation, particularly in the Cannock town centre, is a matter that is receiving the consideration of the Council.

Conclusion

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, to all Members of the Council and to all Chief Officers and their staffs for the help given to me during this period.

May I particularly be permitted to record my thanks to Dr. Webster, the Medical Officer of Health, for his help and co-operation, and to all members of my staff for the work they have accomplished.

I am,
Your obediently,

J. BALL.

Acting Senior Sanitary Inspector.

